

Washington D.C. Dec.8<sup>th</sup> 1887

Since returning from Philadelphia, I have carefully considered the subject of a central normal Indian school and have prayed especially for light on the subject today when I said high mass in St. Patrick's Church. I have talked with Father Willard and got his ideas. I have also talked with Secretary Lamar, the acting Com. of Ind. Affairs and several other Gov't officers and Senators. They all advise me to go on. Some of them say it is the only thing to be done. In conversation with Mr. Oberly, who was formerly Supervisor of Indian instruction, is now a civil service commissioner, and who has the entire confidence of the President, I learned that Mr. Cleveland is taking great interest in the problems of Indian education. He even wishes to extend the civil service rules to the teachers in the Indian ~~service~~ government schools and wishes to establish a normal school for teachers. Knowing our needs and the opinion of sensible men, in a position to judge correctly, I am firmly convinced that this is the best thing we could do. It must be done well and commence at once, if we want to succeed and monopolize it. This is very important! I wish to have it better than Carlisle. I would only take our best and oldest scholars out of our schools already in operation and train them to teachers, farmers & mechanics to be employed by the Gov't on salary and also in our own schools. I do not wish to entrust this work to others; therefore I think it best to keep it in my own hands and send Father Willard to attend to it, which he will gladly do, as he told me. He understands the business and promised to do as I direct.

Please write to me your opinion and decision, and if you agree with my statement, tell me what the institute shall have.

Inclosed I send you the shoe and clothing bills in order to enable you write to them for goods you wish to purchase. Any other bill or bills you want since the beginning of my purchases for Indian schools, please let me know and I shall be happy to forward them to you. I inclose also a letter from Very Rev. Castaldo S.J. about the troubles between the U.S. Ind. Agent and a hot-headed Jesuit father!

Remember me kindly to your good Sister, Mrs. Cassidy and the lady visitors.

I send this letter by Mr. Goorman.

Most sincerely & truly Yours,

P.S. My house N<sup>o</sup> is 81`5 10<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

And office

J. A. Stephan

Sun Building

